

I was proud to help introduce the PRO Act, and I urge Members of Congress to pass it so we can protect the right to organize, rebuild our middle class, and improve the lives of working families in Illinois and across our great Nation.

□ 1145

CELEBRATING NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Read Across America Day.

Tomorrow, classrooms across the country will celebrate the Nation's largest celebration of reading. On this day, we celebrate the joy reading brings to children and families, caregivers, educators, and adults alike. Reading unlocks new adventures and new ideas and brings about a world of imagination.

The day was established by the National Education Association in 1998 to help get kids excited about reading.

Madam Speaker, I want to highlight one celebration in PA-15. Students at Howard Elementary School in Centre County kicked off this celebration with the Pennsylvania State Grange.

This celebration started with an assembly to get the kids excited and will consist of a variety of events focused on reading. Perhaps the most exciting event taking place is "Drop Everything and Read Day." Throughout the day, a sound will play randomly and students will be expected to drop whatever they are working on and pick up a book.

Madam Speaker, as a former Howard Elementary School student and now a senior member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I am always happy to see our students eager to learn.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, a year ago, President Putin launched an unlawful invasion of the people of Ukraine, and it has changed the world, a war that has led to nothing but destruction and human atrocities.

I have seen these atrocities firsthand when I traveled to Ukraine last September—the bombing of homes, of hospitals, of schools; the impacts on innocent women and children; the deportation of families; and the atrocities go on and on.

President Putin is a war criminal. I am proud that he has sanctioned me and many of my colleagues for our support of Ukraine and for standing up for

their democracy. They are standing up for our democracy, as well.

Putin thought he could divide us and Ukraine would immediately fall. He was wrong, wrong, and wrong. The Western world is united as one because freedom and democracy are worth fighting for, and that is what this is all about.

We need to continue to provide financial support to Ukraine, including fighters, tanks, ATACMS, HIMARS, what it takes for them to win this war because there is no other option.

This is the test of our time, and we must rise to meet that test at this time.

DISAVOW NEW NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH IRAN

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today horrified at the reports from Iran that hundreds of schoolgirls appear to have been poisoned in the suspected attack by the Iranian Government. I cannot stand by idly and watch these women and children continue to be targeted simply because they want to live free from persecution.

Last month, I called on the President to do more than merely sanction the Ayatollah's illegal theocratic regime. The Biden administration will not respond because they are still looking to resuscitate the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Additionally, its weakness on the world stage has the administration consumed by the war in Ukraine and recent airspace invasions from China.

We have faced decades-long failed attempts to negotiate directly with the Islamic Republic. If there is one thing that has become crystal clear, it is that resuscitating the nuclear deal no longer offers a realistic pathway for mitigating the threats posed by Tehran.

We need to stop virtue signaling and soft-pedaling with flimsy symbolic support. I call on the Biden administration to publicly disavow the prospect of a new nuclear deal with Iran.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today, at the close of Black History Month and the beginning of Women's History Month, to recognize an incredible athlete and role model from Illinois' 13th Congressional District, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. I also wish her a happy birthday today.

Born and raised in East St. Louis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey is one of the best track athletes of all time, winning six

Olympic medals and four World Championship track titles.

Over the course of her 12-year Olympic career, Jackie broke countless records, including the world record in the heptathlon that still stands today. She was also the first African-American woman to win gold medals in long jump and the heptathlon.

Jackie's legacy extends far beyond her athletic achievements. Just last week, I visited the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, which provides educational and athletic opportunities for young people in East St. Louis. I was truly inspired by what I saw in Jackie's commitment and work. Throughout her life, she has used her platform to be a tireless advocate for children's education, racial equity, and women's rights.

As we celebrate Black history and women's history, let's recognize incredible folks like Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

REVERSE FUNDING FOR ELECTIVE ABORTIONS

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, the President is once again using the Department of Defense to advance the far-left agenda and pro-abortion policies.

The new policy to give servicemembers and their families paid administrative leave for up to 3 weeks and travel reimbursement to obtain out-of-state elective abortions is yet another extreme example.

The law is clear and vetted. No Federal funds are to be used for elective abortions. The military mission is equally clear: to be a lethal force to defend the innocents and to defeat those who would do them harm. This flies in the face of that mission.

I call on the President to reverse this policy, which is in violation of law and counter to the military mission.

BORDER NEEDS MORE RESOURCES

(Mr. LALOTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, the border is not secure. Our officers are doing everything they can, but they need more resources. They need better leadership.

The President must take the border crisis seriously because 100,000 Americans died from fentanyl poisoning last year, and we know that fentanyl is coming from China through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Republicans in the House understand this. We stand ready to increase physical barriers, to hire more Border Patrol agents and immigration judges, to implement new technologies, and to support our officers on the front lines of this crisis.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to working with all of my colleagues to make sure that our country is safe, our border is secure, and our law enforcement has the tools it needs to be successful. Our great Nation depends on it.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAILED ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Bureau of Land Management has revised down the number of unused oil drilling applications from 9,000 to approximately 6,700. The Biden administration has been deceiving the American people to pass the buck for his failed energy policy.

The President's Green New Deal agenda has led to some of the highest energy prices for American families ever. Today, the national price of gasoline is \$3.35 cents per gallon on average, or even a buck higher than that in my home State of California. On the day the President was sworn in, the price of gas was just \$2.39 per gallon, nearly a dollar less.

American households are paying the highest home heating costs in 15 years. On day one of his Presidency, President Biden killed the Keystone XL pipeline project. This move cost the United States up to 59,000 jobs and \$9.6 billion.

The President is currently sitting on over 4,800 pending applications for permits to drill for more energy. This administration is not serious about getting America out of these high costs of energy and this crisis.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXPLORING BLACK RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HOUCHIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today as a part of this month wherein we will honor women.

This is Women's History Month, but I am going to do something that is a little unusual, and I apologize for the encroachment upon Women's History Month that I shall engage in today. It is an encroachment because I want to extend Black History Month by 1 day, and I do so because, actually, in reality, Black history should be an everyday event.

To the women of the world, my apologies—1 day of encroachment as I speak about Black history.

Of course, I rise as a proud descendant of the enslaved people who built America, made America the great country it is, the foundational mothers and fathers. Yes, there were others here who did work, but they did it for hundreds of years without remuneration, so I rise to honor them during this Black History Month.

I rise because it is necessary and proper that we put Black history in its proper perspective, that the story be truthfully told about the history of Africans in America, because it hasn't. The truth is, we say that Black history is American history, and I agree it is. The truth is, Black history is world history. It is bigger than the United States of America. It is global in scope.

Today, however, I shall focus on Black history as it relates to the United States of America. I do believe that it is important for us to give a little bit of history on Black History Month itself.

The precursor to Black History Month was Negro History Week. This was during the second week in February. It was started in 1926 by the honorable historian Carter G. Woodson in concert with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the ASALH.

Madam Speaker, this organization has endorsed this year's Black history resolution that we have. This organization is one that I am proud to associate with for guidance and instruction.

I would add that Negro History Week was founded on this week, the week that I called to your attention that relates to Black history, and coincided with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Black History Month was first proposed by Black educators and Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration took place at Kent State a year later, in 1970.

This year's theme for Black history is "Black Resistance." The theme explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression.

My original Black history resolution has passed this House four times: first, May 12, 2007, where it was agreed upon by a voice vote; again, May 6, 2008, where it received 367 yeas, no nays, 62 persons not voting; and a third time on February 24, 2009, where we had 420 yeas, no nays, and 12 not voting. The final time that it actually passed the House was on February 23, 2010, with 402 yeas, no nays, and 30 not voting.

□ 1200

Since then, we have not been recording votes for resolutions, generally speaking, which is why we don't get a vote on Black History Month resolutions now. I am proud to tell you that for this resolution this year, we have 104 cosponsors. And I am proud to tell you that this resolution has been approved by the organization that has been sponsoring this month for many years now associated with Carter G. Woodson.

Please allow me to read some excerpts from this year's resolution:

"Whereas this resolution may be cited as the Original Black History Month Resolution of 2023;

"Whereas this resolution has been endorsed by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History;

"Whereas the theme for Black History Month 2023 is 'Black resistance,' which chronicles how African Americans have resisted oppression in all its invidious forms including: enslavement, lynching, mob violence, police brutality, Black codes, convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, lawful segregation, and invidious discrimination;

"Whereas slavery was a brutal and inhumane system that treated human beings as property and stripped them of their inalienable human rights of liberty, life, and the pursuit of happiness;

"Whereas the history of Black resistance in the United States predates the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, as it historically spans centuries from colonial slavery through contemporary invidious discrimination;

"Whereas this resolution illuminates some of the momentous recondite history of Black resistance that predates the resistance movements of the 20th and 21st centuries;"

Whereas Black resistance to slavery was a constant presence and it was persistent throughout the history of enslavement in the United States, and it took many forms, including the acts of rebellion, escape, some persons committed suicide, sabotage, litigation, work slowdowns, persons with feigned illness, misplacing or damaging tools, people would literally do anything that they could in the form of noncompliance to resist their being enslaved;

"Whereas there is historical evidence of as many as 250 instances of slave revolts involving 10 or more slaves during the history of American slavery;

"Whereas the Nat Turner and Gabriel Prosser, rebellions were two of the most significant acts of armed resistance to slavery in the United States, inspiring other enslaved people to resist and making clear the determination of enslaved people to fight for their freedom" was something that would be persisted with;

"Whereas Gabriel Prosser's rebellion against Virginia and the United States in 1800 was a landmark event in the history of Black resistance to slavery in the United States and, although he and his followers were hanged, his bravery and leadership continue to inspire generations of activists and advocates;

"Whereas the Stono Rebellion, the New York City Conspiracy, and the German Coast Uprising are other instances of significant slave uprisings in the United States and its predecessor colonies;

"Whereas in the fight for freedom, liberty, justice, and equality the righteous resistance of many Black freedom fighters has been depreciated, downplayed, deprecated, disparaged, denigrated, disrespected, and demonized;